

CPC Learning Network

Agency Learning Network on the Care and Protection of Children in Crisis-Affected Countries

Global Classrooms

The first pilot of the Global Child Protection Classroom was run in New York, USA and Gulu, Uganda in September and October of 2009. Through this initiative, students at Columbia University and NGO child protection practitioners learned from each others perspectives by working on collaborative assignments and virtually holding class together.

In the future, this project will link PLGs, other relevant actors, and students around the globe in active exchanges on how to operationalize child protection in disaster and war. The Global Classroom is grounded in the concept of “distributed learning” that mobilizes the power of a diverse set of learners in different parts of the world to collectively explore the multifaceted challenges associated with organized efforts to protect children and promote their well-being in emergencies. It emphasizes global standards and best practice; the value of local, culturally-grounded voices/experience; collaborative work spaces and networked communications; locally-informed investigations or assignments; a common resource bank/library; and, shared calendar of events or syllabus.

The curriculum and distance-learning technology of the Global Child Protection Classroom enables practitioners and students in the field to develop a practical understanding of effective interventions for preventing and responding to specific child protection concerns, including child-family separations; child recruitment and use as armed combatants; and sexual violence and abuse. Participants explore systemic approaches to promoting a “protective environment” for children in emergencies and post conflict-reintegration transitions. Students and practitioners review strategies for incorporating critical elements of child protection into broader humanitarian response operations; coordination among humanitarian agencies; evidence-based programming; community participation in child protection; and effective advocacy and policy change efforts.

Course concepts and field lessons are taught through interactive case studies of complex emergencies—study materials & readings, videos, interviews with key practitioners and members of affected population are being compiled into case studies on Darfur, Rwanda, Mozambique, Cambodia and the Asian tsunami—and additional studies will be developed by PLG Network members as well. Modules, consisting of documentary videos, practitioner and displaced persons’ interviews, critical analyses and agency report, are being designed to engage participants in “real time” analysis and decision-making. Students will be able to access all course materials electronically.

In the spring semester of 2010, students and practitioners in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and the USA will take part in the first full version of the Global Child Protection Classroom.

To learn more about the CPC Learning Network please see: www.cpclearningnetwork.org